Students get a taste of life at the Laboratory

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Nine students and five faculty and staff from New Mexico Highlands University visited the Laboratory Jan. 30 to learn about the accounting and finance employment opportunities at the Lab, and what life is like for employees.

The day included a tour of parts of the Laboratory site, briefings from senior laboratory management, and an outline of the range of jobs available in the finance division and the opportunities for career development and education. The students, accounting and finance majors from Highlands' Schools of Business, Media Arts and Technology, also got to meet informally with recently-hired employees and with hiring managers.

"As a former business professional and now as Dean, I know the importance of having students get a taste of a work experience before they move headlong into a field or job," says Keith Tucker, interim dean of the Schools of Business, Media Arts and Technology.

"Hosting visits for students from regional colleges helps encourage local students to pursue careers at the Laboratory," says Erika Fleetwood from the Laboratory's finance division, who organized the tour. "We want to show the students that they can have careers here, and give them some sense of what those careers could look and feel like."

This is the third student visit of this type the division has organized (the previous two were with the University of New Mexico), and additional visits from colleges are planned for the fall.

"The working lunch with current employees who are MBA students at the Laboratory was the event the students found the most informative and entertaining," says Tucker. "Having these younger employees talk about their journeys was very well appreciated by the Highlands students. One said it gave them hope that they could be at LANL, and another said, 'they are just like us'."